

# ***South Precinct Email Community Newsletter***

May 23, 2007



Dear Community Friends

## **Summertime Security Tips**

During warm weather months, we often see an increase in burglary and theft. Reasons for this include:

- Windows at residences left open for ventilation when residents are not home.
- Unattended open garages while residents are working in the yard or have briefly left the home.
- Unattended personal belongings while at a park or other recreational venue.
- Unattended personal belongings visible in our vehicles.

Given this anticipated increase, we want to reiterate some summer time safety tips to help reduce incidents of burglary and theft.

## **Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened**

When you are away from home, close and lock your doors and windows. If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will also prevent the window from being opened too far.

## **Lock Your Doors**

I have seen reports of someone stepping out to the store for a short bit and leaving their doors visibly open. They returned to find someone had burglarized the home. Anytime you leave your home, close and lock your doors. Let's not make it easy for the burglar.

## **Working In The Yard**

When working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave your front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight, be mindful of what are you showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by. Close those doors as well.

## **Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended**

Whether they are in a shopping cart or on a picnic blanket, always maintain positive control over your belongings. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle. Seattle has an incredibly high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.

## **Home Security – What Works**

We're continuing our theme of practical and effective security tips to help secure your home from residential burglary and to make your neighborhood less attractive to the potential burglar.

## **Recommendations Regarding Sliding Windows & Doors:**

- Most sliding windows and doors are designed to be removed from the window track from the 3/4-to-fully opened position. They should not be able to be removed from a partially opened position. Installing flat head screws in the upper track of the window can help. Install the screws high enough for the window or door to slide freely, but low enough to prevent the window from being lifted up and out of the track from a partially opened position.
- Use dowels for sliding windows and doors. You can use two sizes of dowels, one for when the window is in the closed position and one to allow the window to be opened enough for ventilation (no more than 4") but not allow someone to force the window open further to gain entry. We still advise that you close and lock all windows and doors for any time you are away from your home.
- Where you have single pane glass windows, consider replacing them with thermal insulated, double pane windows. They are better for security as well as the energy efficiency of the home. Yes, this is a high cost fix, but it is worth it.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator